

Message Text

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21

ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-04

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /111 W
----- 096842

O R 191001Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0593

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 2767

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ICNAF, OCON, XN, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN INTENTION TO ENTER RESERVATION REGARDING
MONTREAL ICNAF DECISION

REF: A) STATE 193300; B) STATE 240675; C) STATE 251828;
D) SOFIA 1765

1. AT RECEPTION OF DEPARTING FRENCH AMBASSADOR LAST NIGHT,
BOGOMIL TODOROV OF LAWS AND TREATIES DEPARTMENT, MFA, IN-
FORMED ME CASUALLY THAT BULGARIA INTENDS TO ENTER A RESERVA-
TION PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE OF DECEMBER 31, TO THE ALLOCATIONS
OF FISHING CATCHES AGREED AT THE MONTREAL ICNAF MEETING IN
OCTOBER. PRESUMABLY HE WAS REFERRING TO THE OBJECTION PROCEDURE
DESCRIBED PARA 2 REF A.

2. I URGED TODOROV TO GIVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS
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THIS MATTER WITH HIM IN DETAIL BEFORE THE OBJECTION IS

FILED, AND COMMENTED THAT MATTER HAS POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS GOING FAR BEYOND FISHERY ASPECT.

3. TODOROV SAID HIS MINISTRY HAD COME UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES THAT BULGARIAN FISHING IN NORTH ATLANTIC WOULD BE "FINISHED" BY THE ALLOCATIONS MADE IN MONTREAL. I SAID IT WAS ALL THE MORE REGRETTABLE THAT BULGARIA WAS NOT REPRESENTED AT THAT MEETING. TODOROV SAID HE HAD MADE THE SAME POINT, BUT FELT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD TO ACT TO PROTECT A BULGARIAN ECONOMIC INTEREST.

4. I INQUIRED WHETHER BULGARIA HAD BEEN IN TOUCH ON THIS MATTER WITH ITS "SOCIALIST FRIENDS", NOTABLY THE SOVIET UNION. TODOROV SAID NO. I MENTIONED DESIRABILITY OF WIDEST POSSIBLE COORDINATION. ADDED THAT IF BULGARIA UPSETS THE CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED MONTREAL COMPROMISE, IT COULD PUSH THE US CONGRESS INTO UNILATERALLY DECLARING A 200-MILE FISHING ZONE, WHICH IN TURN COULD HAVE ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS ON OBJECTIVES WHICH THE US AND OTHER MARITIME NATIONS, INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION, NEEDED TO ACHIEVE AT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. TODOROV EXPRESSED DISBELIEF THAT SUCH A LITTLE ACTION ON THE PART OF LITTLE BULGARIA COULD HAVE SUCH FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ARGUMENTATION FROM THE DEPT THAT COULD BE USED IN INTERVIEW THAT I EXPECT TO HAVE WITH TODOROV ON MONDAY DEC 22. IF IT IS REALLY TRUE THAT A BULGARIAN OBJECTION WOULD HAVE FAR-REACHING EFFECTS IN UNRAVELING WHAT WAS ACHIEVED WITH SUCH DIFFICULTY AT MONTREAL, AND THAT THIS COULD HAVE REPERCUSSIONS ON THE LOS CONFERENCE, I WOULD NEED TO CITE CHAPTER AND VERSE TO HIM ON THAT OCCASION. DEPT MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER EMBASSY MOSCOW COULD PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN THIS MATTER. HERZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTION, POLICIES, FISHERIES MEETINGS, FISHING REGULATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SOFIA02767
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750441-0798
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751223/aaaaaueb.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OFA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 193300, 75 STATE 240675, 75 STATE 251828
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BULGARIAN INTENTION TO ENTER RESERVATION REGARDING MONTREAL ICNAF DECISION
TAGS: OCON, XN, BU, ICNAF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006